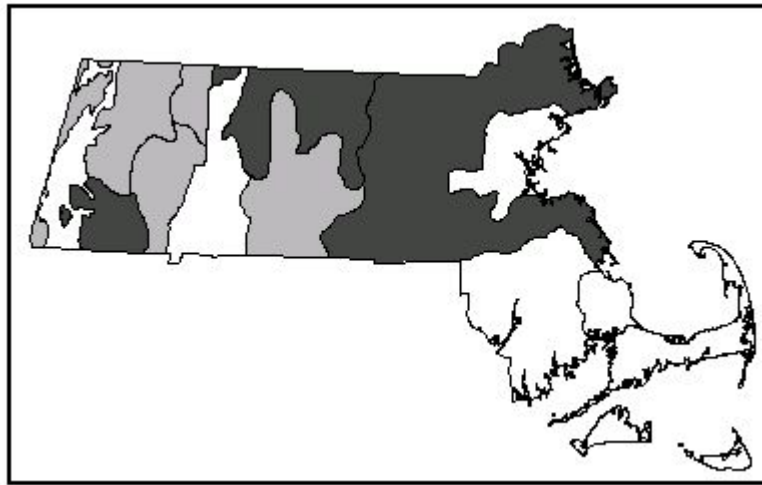


Community Name: SPRUCE - TAMARACK BOG
Community ELCODE: CP1B1B1000
SRANK: S2



- Concept:** Acidic forested peatlands with an overstory of black spruce and tamarack and an understory of heath shrubs on sphagnum moss.
- Environmental setting:** Forested bogs occur in a variety of physical settings, primarily in the north-central and western parts of the state. They occur in kettlehole depressions, watershed divides, and along pond margins. Forested bogs are late-successional peatlands that typically occur on thick peat deposits.
- Vegetation Description:** Black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and tamarack (*Larix laricina*) are dominant in the overstory. Red spruce (*Picea rubens*) can occur in place of black spruce. The trunks and branches are often covered and draped in lichens, especially *Usnea* spp. Other trees that occur in lesser amounts are white pine (*Pinus strobus*), pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*), but red spruce (*Picea rubens*) can also occur. A mixture of tall shrubs and short, ericaceous shrubs provide nearly continuous cover in the understory. Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*) and bog-laurel (*Kalmia polifolia*) are good indicators of the community, but they do not always occur. Other common shrubs are mountain-holly (*Nemopanthus mucronatus*), wild raisin (*Viburnum nudum* var. *cassinoides*), and sheep-laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*). The ground is covered in Sphagnum spp. moss with three-seeded bog sedge (*Carex trisperma*), three-leaved Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum trifolium*), bluebead-lily (*Clintonia borealis*), goldthread (*Coptis trifolia* ssp. *groenlandica*), and creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*).
- Associations:** No associations have been described in Massachusetts.
- Habitat values for Associated Fauna:** The moats of forested bogs can function as vernal pool habitat if water remains standing for 2-3 months and they lack fish; these areas provide important amphibian breeding habitat.
- Associated rare plants:**
- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|----|
| ARCEUTHOBIMUM PUSILLUM | DWARF MISTLETOE | SC |
|------------------------|-----------------|----|
- Associated rare animals:**
- NONE KNOWN
- Examples with Public Access:** Poutwater Pond, MDC, Sterling.
- Threats:** More work is needed to identify threats to black spruce-tamarack forested bogs.
- Management needs:** More work is needed to assess the management needs of black spruce-tamarack forested bogs.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: Picea mariana/Kalmia angustifolia/Sphagnum spp. Forest [CEGL006168].

MA [old name]: not described, part of Northern New England level bog [CP2C2B0000].

ME: Forested bog community.

VT: Black spruce bog [woodland].

NH: Black spruce-larch basin swamp.

NY: Black spruce-tamarack bog.

CT: Not described.

RI: Black spruce bog.

Golet & Larson, 1974: Wooded bog (BG-2).

Other:

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Date: 7/21/99